THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 15, 1995

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your letter on the alleged Russian military doctrine that advocates occupying the Baltic states and forward-basing tactical nuclear weapons in response to NATO enlargement. Our information is that the document was not drafted by the Russian General Staff but is a concept paper prepared by a Moscow research institute. While some in the Russian government may sympathize with its policy recommendations, we know of no Russian government endorsement. Foreign Minister Kozyrev has specifically stated that he was unaware of such a new doctrine.

While the paper appears to have no official standing, we utterly reject its irresponsible policy prescriptions. Such threats by Moscow would be inconsistent with Russian obligations under international law and under OSCE. The State Department addressed this in very clear terms on October 6. The United States has a direct and material interest in the security, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Baltic states. We have also expressed our views to the Russian government in diplomatic channels.

As NATO Foreign Ministers confirmed at their December 5 meeting in Brussels, the enlargement process will continue to move forward in the same steady, measured and transparent manner as before. Building on the enlargement study briefed to members of the Partnership for Peace this fall, the enlargement process will move into a new phase in 1996, as the Alliance begins intensified bilateral consultations with interested Partnership for Peace members aimed at helping them prepare for possible membership.